

Bully/Victim Characteristics

Often victims of bullying also will exhibit bullying behavior. The repercussions of the bully/victim behavior and characteristics result in the worst-possible outcome for a student. They are:

- targets of bullies and also bully younger or weaker children
- hyperactive and emotionally reactive
- at risk for persistent social and behavioral problems

because the bully/victim displays characteristics of both a bully and a victim, they typically are a greater threat to others and themselves. ■

>> with anything else. We know the tragedy of it, but they don't make the connection or think far enough in advance. So we, as adults, need to see that far in advance to see where they might end up, so we can prevent it way back here."

But even those departments that do not have SROs in the schools can have an impact on the children in their school systems. Every school has a lunch period and every elementary school

has a recess. Patrol officers who

truly want to make a difference can make it a point

to stop at a school once a week and eat lunch with students,

shoot basketball with them,

wave at them

in the hallways and just be visible.

Officers can

take notice of the child who sits alone in the cafeteria or is excluded from activities at recess and choose to talk to that students and invest in his or her life in a way that child may not be receiving from anywhere else.

"I don't know a single chief or sheriff who would have an issue with that because it is community-oriented policing, and that is something we did 15 to 20 years ago,"

Harvey said. "If we can make these students feel like they are not alone and report the bullying with them, then we can go a long way to making our schools safer because they're not going to commit suicide or shoot up the school because people are investing in them and building into their lives."

REDIRECTING THE BULLY

Despite how much positive attention victims of bullying receive, something still has to be done to address the actions and behaviors of the bullies themselves. It has to be a two-pronged approach.

PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

